

CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, January 25, 2006 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (404 HOB)

Action Packet

Allan G. Bense Speaker Dick Kravitz Chair

Wilbert "Tee" Holloway Vice Chair

Criminal Justice Committee

1/25/2006 9:30:00AM

Location: 404 HOB

Attendance:

*	Present	Absent	Excused
Dick Kravitz (Chair)	Х		
Sandra Adams	Х		
Bruce Antone	X		
Adam Hasner	. Х		
Wilbert Holloway	X		
Marcelo Llorente	X		
Ari Porth	Х		
Everett Rice	Χ		
Totals:	8	0	0

Criminal Justice Committee

1/25/2006 9:30:00AM

Location: 404 HOB

HB 271 : Custody of Criminal Defendants

	Yea	Nay	No Vote	Absentee Yea	Absentee Nay
Sandra Adams	X				
Bruce Antone	X				
Adam Hasner				X	
Wilbert Holloway	X				
Marcelo Llorente	X				
Ari Porth	X				
Everett Rice	X				
Dick Kravitz (Chair)	X			•	· ···
	Total Yeas: 7	Total Nays:	0		

Appearances:

HB 271--Custody of Criminal Defendants Frank Messersmith (Lobbyist) - Proponent

Fla. Sheriff's Association 2901 Lake Bradford Tallahassee Florida Phone: 576-5858

HOUSE AMENDMENT FOR COUNCIL/COMMITTEE PURPOSES

Amendment No. 1

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Bill No. 271

COUNCIL/COMMITTEE ACTION

ADOPTED __ (Y/N)

ADOPTED AS AMENDED __ (Y/N)

ADOPTED W/O OBJECTION __ (Y/N)

FAILED TO ADOPT __ (Y/N)

WITHDRAWN __ (Y/N)

OTHER

Council/Committee hearing bill: Criminal Justice Committee Representative Kreegel offered the following:

Amendment (with title amendment)

Remove lines 23-27 and insert:

Remove lines 3-7 and insert:

sentence of imprisonment, unless otherwise ordered by the court, such person shall remain in the department's custody pending disposition of the charge, or until the person's underlying sentence of imprisonment expires, whichever occurs earlier. If the arrested state prisoner's presence is required in court for any reason, the provisions of s. 944.17(8) shall apply.

======== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T ========

amending s. 907.04, F.S.; providing that arrestees in the custody of the Department of Corrections at the time of arrest be retained in the department's custody pending disposition of the charge or until the expiration of the arrestee's original sentence of imprisonment; providing for the provisions of s.

944.17(8) to apply if an arrested state prisoner's presence is required in court; providing an effective date.

required in court; providing an effective date.

Criminal Justice Committee

1/25/2006 9:30:00AM

Location: 404 HOB

HB 297: Driving and Boating Under the Influence

X Favorable With Commit	tee Substitute				
	Yea	Nay	No Vote	Absentee Yea	Absentee Nay
Sandra Adams				X	
Bruce Antone	X				
Adam Hasner	X				
Wilbert Holloway	X				
Marcelo Llorente			X		
Ari Porth	X				
Everett Rice	X				
Dick Kravitz (Chair)	X			4	м
	Total Yeas: 6	Total Nays:	0		

Appearances:

HB 297--Driving and Boating Under the Influence Robert Trammell (Lobbyist) - Opponent Fl. Public Defender Association, Inc. 907 Hays

Tallahassee Florida 32310 Phone: 850-510-2187

HB 297--Driving and Boating Under the Influence Wade Hopping (Lobbyist) - Proponent National Marine Manufacturing Association 710 N. Ridz Road Tallahassee Florida 32303

Phone: 222-7500

HB 297--Driving and Boating Under the Influence Alan Richard (State Employee) - Information Only Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission 620 S. Meridian Tallahassee Florida 32399

Phone: 487-1764

HB 297--Driving and Boating Under the Influence Jason Berger (State Employee) - Proponent 3040 SW Woolard Trail Palm City Florida 34996

Phone: 772-462-1360

HB 297--Driving and Boating Under the Influence Eric Miller - Proponent MADD

MADD 5024 SE Pine Knoll Way Stuart Florida 34957 Phone: 561-262-1158

HOUSE AMENDMENT FOR COUNCIL/COMMITTEE PURPOSES Amendment No. 1(for drafter's use only)

Bill No. 0297

COUNCIL/COMMITTEE ACTION

ADOPTED	(Y/N)	
ADOPTED AS AMENDED	(Y/N)	
ADOPTED W/O OBJECTION	Y (Y/N)	ADOPTED
FAILED TO ADOPT	(Y/N)	
WITHDRAWN	(Y/N)	
OTHER		

Council/Committee hearing bill: Criminal Justice Committee Representative Harrell offered the following:

Amendment (with title amendment)

Remove everything after the enacting clause and insert:

Section 1. Subsection (6) of section 316.193, Florida

Statutes, is amended, paragraph (1) is added to that subsection, and subsection (13) is added to that section, to read:

316.193 Driving under the influence; penalties .--

- (6) With respect to any person convicted of a violation of this section subsection (1), regardless of any penalty imposed pursuant to subsection (2), subsection (3), or subsection (4):
- (a) For the first conviction, the court shall place the defendant on probation for a period not to exceed 1 year and, as a condition of such probation, shall order the defendant to participate in public service or a community work project for a minimum of 50 hours; or the court may order instead, that any defendant pay an additional fine of \$10 for each hour of public service or community work otherwise required, if, after consideration of the residence or location of the defendant at the time public service or community work is required, payment

Amendment No. 1(for drafter's use only)

of the fine is in the best interests of the state. However, the

23 total period of probation and incarceration may not exceed 1

24 year. The court must also, as a condition of probation, order

the impoundment or immobilization of the vehicle that was

operated by or in the actual control of the defendant or any one

vehicle registered in the defendant's name at the time of

28 impoundment or immobilization, for a period of 10 days or for

the unexpired term of any lease or rental agreement that expires

within 10 days. The impoundment or immobilization must not occur

31 concurrently with the incarceration of the defendant. The

impoundment or immobilization order may be dismissed in

accordance with paragraph (e), paragraph (f), paragraph (g), or

34 paragraph (h).

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within a period of 5 years after the date of a prior conviction for violation of this section, the court shall order imprisonment for not less than 10 days. The court must also, as a condition of probation, order the impoundment or immobilization of all vehicles owned by the defendant at the time of impoundment or immobilization, for a period of 30 days or for the unexpired term of any lease or rental agreement that expires within 30 days. The impoundment or immobilization must not occur concurrently with the incarceration of the defendant and must occur concurrently with the driver's license revocation imposed under s. 322.28(2)(a)2. The impoundment or immobilization order may be dismissed in accordance with paragraph (e), paragraph (f), paragraph (g), or paragraph (h). At least 48 hours of confinement must be consecutive.

(c) For the third or subsequent conviction for an offense that occurs within a period of 10 years after the date of a

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prior conviction for violation of this section, the court shall order imprisonment for not less than 30 days. The court must also, as a condition of probation, order the impoundment or immobilization of all vehicles owned by the defendant at the time of impoundment or immobilization, for a period of 90 days or for the unexpired term of any lease or rental agreement that expires within 90 days. The impoundment or immobilization shall must not occur concurrently with the incarceration of the defendant and shall must occur concurrently with the driver's license revocation imposed under s. 322.28(2)(a)3. The impoundment or immobilization order may be dismissed in accordance with paragraph (e), paragraph (f), paragraph (g), or paragraph (h). At least 48 hours of confinement must be consecutive.

- The court must at the time of sentencing the defendant issue an order for the impoundment or immobilization of a vehicle. Within 7 business days after the date that the court issues the order of impoundment or immobilization, the clerk of the court must send notice by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the registered owner of each vehicle, if the registered owner is a person other than the defendant, and to each person of record claiming a lien against the vehicle.
- A person who owns but was not operating the vehicle when the offense occurred may submit to the court a police report indicating that the vehicle was stolen at the time of the offense or documentation of having purchased the vehicle after the offense was committed from an entity other than the defendant or the defendant's agent. If the court finds that the vehicle was stolen or that the sale was not made to circumvent the order and allow the defendant continued access to the

Amendment No. 1(for drafter's use only)

vehicle, the order must be dismissed and the owner of the vehicle will incur no costs. If the court denies the request to dismiss the order of impoundment or immobilization, the petitioner may request an evidentiary hearing.

- (f) A person who owns but was not operating the vehicle when the offense occurred, and whose vehicle was stolen or who purchased the vehicle after the offense was committed directly from the defendant or the defendant's agent, may request an evidentiary hearing to determine whether the impoundment or immobilization should occur. If the court finds that either the vehicle was stolen or the purchase was made without knowledge of the offense, that the purchaser had no relationship to the defendant other than through the transaction, and that such purchase would not circumvent the order and allow the defendant continued access to the vehicle, the order must be dismissed and the owner of the vehicle will incur no costs.
- (g) The court shall also dismiss the order of impoundment or immobilization of the vehicle if the court finds that the family of the owner of the vehicle has no other private or public means of transportation.
- (h) The court may also dismiss the order of impoundment or immobilization of any vehicles that are owned by the defendant but that are operated solely by the employees of the defendant or any business owned by the defendant.
- (i) All costs and fees for the impoundment or immobilization, including the cost of notification, must be paid by the owner of the vehicle or, if the vehicle is leased or rented, by the person leasing or renting the vehicle, unless the impoundment or immobilization order is dismissed. All provisions of s. 713.78 shall apply.

The person who owns a vehicle that is impounded or

immobilized under this paragraph, or a person who has a lien of

record against such a vehicle and who has not requested a review

of the impoundment pursuant to paragraph (e), paragraph (f), or

paragraph (g), may, within 10 days after the date that person

has knowledge of the location of the vehicle, file a complaint

in the county in which the owner resides to determine whether

the vehicle was wrongfully taken or withheld from the owner or

lienholder may have the vehicle released by posting with the

court a bond or other adequate security equal to the amount of

the costs and fees for impoundment or immobilization, including

towing or storage, to ensure the payment of such costs and fees

if the owner or lienholder does not prevail. When the bond is

posted and the fee is paid as set forth in s. 28.24, the clerk

the time of release, after reasonable inspection, the owner or

lienholder must give a receipt to the towing or storage company

indicating any loss or damage to the vehicle or to the contents

of the court shall issue a certificate releasing the vehicle. At

lienholder. Upon the filing of a complaint, the owner or

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- (k) A defendant, in the court's discretion, may be required to serve all or any portion of a term of imprisonment to which the defendant has been sentenced pursuant to this section in a residential alcoholism treatment program or a residential drug abuse treatment program. Any time spent in such a program must be credited by the court toward the term of imprisonment.
- (1) For the fourth or subsequent conviction under subparagraph (2)(b)3., the court shall order imprisonment for not less than 2 years. There shall be no substitution of this

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of the vehicle.

HOUSE AMENDMENT FOR COUNCIL/COMMITTEE PURPOSES Amendment No. 1(for drafter's use only) minimum mandatory term of imprisonment with treatment alternatives. However, the court may, with the consent of the state, order the defendant to serve a minimum mandatory sentence of 1 year of incarceration followed by a period of probation during which the defendant must attend and successfully complete a residential alcohol treatment program, a residential drug abuse treatment program, or be placed on community control. The court must also, as a condition of probation, order the impoundment or immobilization of all vehicles owned by the defendant at the time of impoundment or immobilization for a period of 120 days or for the unexpired term of any lease or rental agreement that expires within 120 days. The impoundment or immobilization shall not occur concurrently with the incarceration of the defendant and shall occur concurrently with the driver's license revocation imposed under s. 322.28. The impoundment or immobilization order may be dismissed in accordance with paragraph (e), paragraph (f), paragraph (g), or paragraph (h). At least 48 hours of confinement must be

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For the purposes of this section, any conviction for a violation of s. 327.35; a previous conviction for the violation of former s. 316.1931, former s. 860.01, or former s. 316.028; or a previous conviction outside this state for driving under the influence, driving while intoxicated, driving with an unlawful blood-alcohol level, driving with an unlawful breath-alcohol level, or any other similar alcohol-related or drug-related traffic offense, is also considered a previous conviction for violation of this section. However, in satisfaction of the fine imposed pursuant to this section, the court may, upon a finding

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consecutive.

HOUSE AMENDMENT FOR COUNCIL/COMMITTEE PURPOSES

Amendment No. 1(for drafter's use only)

that the defendant is financially unable to pay either all or part of the fine, order that the defendant participate for a specified additional period of time in public service or a community work project in lieu of payment of that portion of the fine which the court determines the defendant is unable to pay. In determining such additional sentence, the court shall consider the amount of the unpaid portion of the fine and the reasonable value of the services to be ordered; however, the court may not compute the reasonable value of services at a rate less than the federal minimum wage at the time of sentencing.

(13) (a) Notwithstanding s. 921.241, every judgment of guilty with respect to any offense governed by this section shall comply with this subsection. Each judgment shall be in writing, signed by the judge, and recorded by the clerk of the circuit court. The judge shall cause to be affixed to every such written judgment of guilty, in open court and in the presence of such judge, the fingerprints of the defendant against whom such judgment is rendered. Such fingerprints shall be affixed beneath the judge's signature to any such judgment. Beneath such fingerprints shall be appended a certificate in substantially the following form:

"I hereby certify that the above and foregoing fingerprints are of the defendant, (name), and that they were placed thereon by said defendant in my presence, in open court, this the day of (month) (year)."

Such certificate shall be signed by the judge, whose signature thereto shall be followed by the word "Judge."

- (b) Any such written judgment of guilty, or a certified copy thereof, shall be admissible in evidence in the courts of this state as prima facie evidence that the fingerprints appearing thereon and certified by the judge are the fingerprints of the defendant against whom such judgment of guilty was rendered.
- (c) At the time the defendant's fingerprints are taken, the judge shall also cause the defendant's social security number to be taken. The defendant's social security number shall be affixed to every written judgment of guilty, in open court, in the presence of such judge, and at the time the judgment is rendered. If the defendant is unable or unwilling to provide his or her social security number, the reason for its absence shall be indicated on the written judgment.
- Section 2. Paragraphs (a) and (c) of subsection (6) of section 327.35, Florida Statutes, is amended, paragraphs (j) and (k) are added to that subsection, and subsection (11) is added to that section, to read:
- 327.35 Boating under the influence; penalties; "designated drivers".--
- (6) With respect to any person convicted of a violation of subsection (1), regardless of any other penalty imposed:
- (a) For the first conviction, the court shall place the defendant on probation for a period not to exceed 1 year and, as a condition of such probation, shall order the defendant to participate in public service or a community work project for a minimum of 50 hours. The court must also, as a condition of probation, order the impoundment or immobilization of the vessel that was operated by or in the actual control of the defendant or any one vehicle registered in the defendant's name at the

297-Harrell-01.doc

Amendment No. 1(for drafter's use only)
time of impoundment or immobilization, for a period of 10 days
or for the unexpired term of any lease or rental agreement that
expires within 10 days. The impoundment or immobilization must
not occur concurrently with the incarceration of the defendant.
The impoundment or immobilization order may be dismissed in
accordance with paragraph (e) or paragraph (f). The total period
of probation and incarceration may not exceed 1 year.

- (c) For the third or subsequent conviction for an offense that occurs within a period of 10 years after the date of a prior conviction for violation of this section, the court shall order imprisonment for not less than 30 days. The court must also, as a condition of probation, order the impoundment or immobilization of the vessel that was operated by or in the actual control of the defendant or any one vehicle registered in the defendant's name at the time of impoundment or immobilization, for a period of 90 days or for the unexpired term of any lease or rental agreement that expires within 90 days. The impoundment or immobilization shall must not occur concurrently with the incarceration of the defendant. The impoundment or immobilization order may be dismissed in accordance with paragraph (e) or paragraph (f). At least 48 hours of confinement must be consecutive.
- (j) For the fourth or subsequent conviction under subparagraph (2)(b)3., the court shall order imprisonment for not less than 2 years. There shall be no substitution of this minimum mandatory term of imprisonment with treatment alternatives. However, the court may, with the consent of the state, order the defendant to serve a minimum mandatory sentence of 1 year of incarceration followed by a period of probation during which the defendant must attend and successfully complete

Amendment No. 1(for drafter's use only)
a residential alcohol treatment program, a residential drug
abuse treatment program or be placed on community control. The
court must also, as a condition of probation, order the
impoundment or immobilization of the vessel that was operated by
or in the actual control of the defendant or any one vehicle
registered in the defendant's name at the time of impoundment or
immobilization for a period of 120 days or for the unexpired
term of any lease or rental agreement that expires within 120
days. The impoundment or immobilization shall not occur
concurrently with the incarceration of the defendant. The
impoundment or immobilization order may be dismissed in
accordance with paragraph (e) or paragraph (f). At least 48
hours of confinement must be consecutive.

when an offense under this section occurred may request an evidentiary hearing to determine whether the impoundment or immobilization should occur. If the court finds that the owner was unaware of the defendant's prior conviction and sentence under paragraph (a), paragraph (b), paragraph (c), or paragraph (j) or if the court finds that there are other mitigating circumstances that should allow the owner of the vessel to secure the release of the vessel to the owner's possession, the court may do so by dismissing the order of impoundment or immobilization with or without cost to the vessel owner.

For the purposes of this section, any conviction for a violation of s. 316.193, a previous conviction for the violation of former s. 316.1931, former s. 860.01, or former s. 316.028, or a previous conviction outside this state for driving under the influence, driving while intoxicated, driving with an unlawful

Amendment No. 1(for drafter's use only)
blood-alcohol level, driving with an unlawful breath-alcohol
level, or any other similar alcohol-related or drug-related
traffic offense, is also considered a previous conviction for

HOUSE AMENDMENT FOR COUNCIL/COMMITTEE PURPOSES

294 violation of this section.

(11) (a) Notwithstanding s. 921.241, every judgment of guilty with respect to any offense governed by this section shall comply with this subsection. Each judgment shall be in writing, signed by the judge, and recorded by the clerk of the circuit court. The judge shall cause to be affixed to every such written judgment of guilty, in open court and in the presence of such judge, the fingerprints of the defendant against whom such judgment is rendered. Such fingerprints shall be affixed beneath the judge's signature to any such judgment. Beneath such fingerprints shall be appended a certificate in substantially the following form:

"I hereby certify that the above and foregoing fingerprints are of the defendant, (name), and that they were placed thereon by said defendant in my presence, in open court, this the day of (month) (year)."

 Such certificate shall be signed by the judge, whose signature thereto shall be followed by the word "Judge."

(b) Any such written judgment of guilty, or a certified copy thereof, shall be admissible in evidence in the courts of this state as prima facie evidence that the fingerprints appearing thereon and certified by the judge are the fingerprints of the defendant against whom such judgment of guilty was rendered.

HOUSE AMENDMENT FOR COUNCIL/COMMITTEE PURPOSES Amendment No. 1(for drafter's use only)

(c) At the time the defendant's fingerprints are taken, the judge shall also cause the defendant's social security number to be taken. The defendant's social security number shall be affixed to every written judgment of guilty, in open court, in the presence of such judge, and at the time the judgment is rendered. If the defendant is unable or unwilling to provide his or her social security number, the reason for its absence shall be indicated on the written judgment.

Section 3. This act shall take effect October 1, 2006, and shall apply to offenses committed on or after that date.

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Remove the entire title and insert:

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An act relating to driving and boating under the influence; amending s. 316.193, F.S.; providing for applicability of sanctions; requiring a specified period of imprisonment for a fourth or subsequent conviction of driving under the influence; prohibiting substitution of treatment alternatives in certain circumstances; requiring impoundment or immobilization of all vehicles owned by the defendant for a specified period; providing for dismissal of an impoundment order; amending s. 327.35, F.S.; requiring a specified period of imprisonment for a fourth or subsequent conviction of boating under the influence; prohibiting substitution of treatment alternatives in certain circumstances; requiring impoundment or immobilization of the vessel operated by or in the actual control of the defendant or any one vehicle registered in the defendant's name at the time of impoundment or

HOUSE AMENDMENT FOR COUNCIL/COMMITTEE PURPOSES

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Amendment No. 1(for drafter's use only)

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immobilization for a specified period; providing for dismissal of an order of impoundment or immobilization under certain circumstances upon request of an owner who was not operating the vessel; providing for dismissal of an impoundment order; providing applicability; providing an effective date.

Criminal Justice Committee 1/25/2006 9:30:00AM

Location: 404 HOB

HB 339 : Sexual Predators

	Yea	Nay	No Vote	Absentee Yea	Absentee Nay
Sandra Adams	X			·	
Bruce Antone	X				
Adam Hasner				X	
Wilbert Holloway	X				
Marcelo Llorente			X		
Ari Porth	X		X		
Everett Rice	X				
Dick Kravitz (Chair)	X				
	Total Yeas: 6	Total Nays	: 0		

Appearances:

HB 339--Sexual Predators
Larry Wood (State Employee) - Proponent
Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office
3228 Gun Club Road
West Palm Beach Florida 33406

Phone: 561-688-4142

HOUSE AMENDMENT FOR COUNCIL/COMMITTEE PURPOSES Amendment No.1 (for drafter's use only)

Bill No. 0339

COUNCIL/COMMITTEE	ACTION	
ADOPTED	(Y/N)	
ADOPTED AS AMENDED	(Y/N)	
ADOPTED W/O OBJECTION	\sum (Y/N)	ADOPTED
FAILED TO ADOPT	(Y/N)	The state of the s
WITHDRAWN	(Y/N)	
OTHER		

Council/Committee hearing bill: Criminal Justice Committee Representative Brandenburg offered the following:

Amendment

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Remove lines 23-26 and insert:

person's permanent address; or for a person whose permanent residence is not in this state, a place where the person is employed, practices a vocation, or is enrolled as a student for any period of time in this state; or a place where the person

Criminal Justice Committee

1/25/2006 9:30:00AM

Location: 404 HOB

HB 399 : Criminal Offenses

	Yea	Nay	No Vote	Absentee	Absentee
		•		Yea	Nay
Sandra Adams				X	
Bruce Antone	X				
Adam Hasner	X				
Wilbert Holloway	X		٠		
Marcelo Llorente			X		
Ari Porth	X				
Everett Rice	X				
Dick Kravitz (Chair)	X				
	Total Yeas: 6	Total Nays: 0)		

Criminal Justice Committee

1/25/2006 9:30:00AM

Location: 404 HOB

PCB CRJU 06-02 : Stolen Property

	Total Yeas: 6	Total Nays: 0			
Dick Kravitz (Chair)	X				
Everett Rice	X				
Ari Porth	X				
Marcelo Llorente	X				
Wilbert Holloway	· X				
Adam Hasner				X	
Bruce Antone	X				
Sandra Adams				X	
	Yea	Nay	No Vote	Absentee Yea	Absentee Nay
X Favorable					

Appearances:

PCB CRJU 06-02--Stolen Property Frank Messersmith (Lobbyist) - Proponent 2901 Lake Bradford Tallahassee Florida

Phone: 850-576-5858

Criminal Justice Committee

1/25/2006 9:30:00AM

Location: 404 HOB

Workshop

PCB CRJU 06-03--Criminal Background Screening

Appearances:

Camp Bulloch - Information Only

PCB CRJU 06-03--Criminal Background Screening for Contractual School Personnel

ABC - North Florida

P.O. Box 4276

Tallahassee Florida 32315

Phone:850-504-9200

David Williams - Information Only

PCB CRJU 06-03--Criminal Background Screening for Contractual School Personnel

ABC of Florida

701 W. Adams Street

Jacksonville Florida 32259

Phone:904-353-6500

Electra Bustle - Proponent

PCB CRJU 06-03--Criminal Background Screening for Contractual School Personnel

FDLE

Tallahassee Florida 410-7004

James Perry - Information Only

PCB CRJU 06-03--Criminal Background Screening for Contractual School Personnel

Center for Fine Arts Education

Tallahassee Florida 32301

Phone: 850-878-6844

Joy Frank - Proponent

PCB CRJU 06-03--Criminal Background Screening for Contractual School Personnel

Fla. Assoc. of District School Superintendants

208 S. Monroe Street

Tallahassee Florida 32301

Phone:222-2280

Richard Watson - Proponent

PCB CRJU 06-03--Criminal Background Screening for Contractual School Personnel

Florida Surety Association

P.O. Box 10038

Tallahassee Florida 32322

Phone:850-222-0000

HB 61 CS:

Appearances:

Criminal Justice Committee

1/25/2006 9:30:00AM

Location: 404 HOB

David Rothman - Information Only

HB 61 CS--Postsentencing Testing of DNA Evidence

The Florida Bar

651 E. Jefferson Street Tallahassee Florida 32399

Phone: 561-5662

Jennifer Greenberg - Proponent

HB 61 CS--Postsentencing Testing of DNA Evidence

Florida Innocence Initiative

1720 S. Gadsden Street

Tallahassee Florida 32301

Phone:850-561-6768

Kenneth Nunn (State Employee) - Proponent

HB 61 CS--Postsentencing Testing of DNA Evidence

College of Law

Gainesville Florida 32611

Phone:352-273-0660

Nancy Daniels (State Employee) - Proponent

HB 61 CS--Postsentencing Testing of DNA Evidence

Fl. Public Defender Association, Inc.

Leon County Courthouse/301 S. Monroe Street

Tallahassee Florida 32301

Phone:850-606-1010

Suzanne H. Livingston (State Employee) - Information Only

HB 61 CS--Postsentencing Testing of DNA Evidence

FDLE

2331 Phillips Road

Tallahassee Florida 32308

Phone:850-410-8340

Wilton Dedge - Proponent

HB 61 CS--Postsentencing Testing of DNA Evidence

Self

4600 Camberly Street

Cocoa Florida 32927

Phone: 321-302-6908

Committee meeting was reported out: Wednesday, January 25, 2006 3:26:37PM

Print Date: 1/25/2006 3:26 pm Page 8 of 9

Criminal Justice Committee

1/25/2006 9:30:00AM

Yeas: 6 Nays: 0

Location: 404 HOB

Summary:

Criminal Justice Committee

Wednesday January 25, 2006 09:30 am

PCB CRJU 06-03--Criminal Background Screening Workshopped

HB 61 CS Workshopped

PCB CRJU 06-02 Favorable

HB 271	Favorable With Committee Substitute	Yeas: 7	Nays: 0
HB 297	Favorable With Committee Substitute	Yeas: 6	Nays: 0
НВ 339	Favorable With Committee Substitute	Yeas: 6	Nays: 0
HB 399	Favorable	Yeas: 6	Nays: 0



SCHOOL OF LAW

PCB CR34 40-05
Handout

6441 East Colonial Drive Orlando, FL 32807-3650 voice (321) 206-5750

www.barry.edu/law

January 18, 2006

Dear Legislators:

As a child advocate, I was pleased that the Florida Legislature passed the Jessica Lunsford Act. In many ways, it is a good law. The law is designed to protect Florida's children from sexual predators and offenders. In 82 pages the law includes many laudable protections for Florida's children including increased penalties for sex offenders and the tightening of the monitoring of convicted sex offenders. Unfortunately, in one small portion of the Act, the law establishes an elaborate and extensive protocol that requires the fingerprinting and criminal background checks of persons that provide goods, materials or services to schools.

The protocol established by the law is enormously expensive to administer for the Florida's school districts and the businesses that provide the necessary goods and services to our schools. The millions of dollars that will be spent to administer the fingerprinting and criminal background checks that are required by the Act will drain the school districts of financial and personal resources that are needed to build classrooms, buy books and protect children.

Practically speaking, the fingerprinting and "Level 2" background checks required by the Act is unworkable. As written, the law requires the school districts to initiate the fingerprinting of what could be millions of employees of firms that do business with schools and perform criminal background checks of those persons to determine if they have ever committed a crime of "moral turpitude," regardless of whether the crime demonstrates a proclivity towards harming children.

Employees of businesses that serve schools in several districts may be subjected to multiple fingerprinting and background checks because the FDLE has no reasonable means to allow the various school districts to share the huge database without frequently purging its contents.

There is a much better way to protect our school children from sexual predators. Instead of implementing the elaborate protocol required by the statute, the Legislature should utilize the state and national databases of sexual offenders and predators that already exist.

This can be easily accomplished by amending a small portion of the Act to require businesses that provide goods, materials or services to schools to certify on an annual basis that their employees have been checked against the state and national sexual and offender databases and by imposing criminal penalties on those businesses that fail to comply with the Act. Under the Act as presently written, no such penalty exists.

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Changing the law in this fashion will eliminate the costly and unworkable protocol that is required by the Act and put some real teeth into compliance, all for the better protection of our school children. Such an amendment is presently being proposed by Associated Builders and Contractors of Florida. It is a common sense amendment that will save millions of precious education dollars and provide better protection for our children from those who have a demonstrated proclivity to do them harm.

Our children need protection, but we also need the funds to build more schools. There has to be a reasonable balance.

Gerard F. Glynn

Associate Professor

Barry University School of Law